



AO-10

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of Campaign & Political Finance

One Ashburton Place, Boston 02108

727-8352

Dennis J. Duffin
Director

July 12, 1985
AO-1985-10

Mr. Robert K. Sheridan
Treasurer
Massachusetts THRIFTPAC
50 Congress Street
Boston, MA 02109

Dear Mr. Sheridan:

This is in response to your request for an advisory opinion concerning G.L. c. 55, the campaign finance law. Your questions, and the appropriate answers, are as follows.

1. Is there any statutory ceiling on the amount of money that Massachusetts THRIFTPAC, as a multi-candidate political committee, may give to candidates for state constitutional and legislative offices?

At the present time, there is no statutory ceiling on the amount of money that a multi-candidate committee, registered with this office, may contribute to candidates for Massachusetts constitutional and legislative offices. However, you should be aware that legislation is currently pending in the state legislature which provides for limitations on such contributions.

2. May Massachusetts THRIFTPAC, as a political committee organized with this office to support candidates for state office, make contributions on an irregular basis, to candidates for federal office?

The primary purpose of Massachusetts THRIFTPAC, as a multi-candidate political committee registered with this office, must necessarily be to make contributions to candidates for public office at the state and local level in Massachusetts. While the law does not prohibit your state committee from making contributions on an irregular basis, to candidates for federal office those expenditures should not reflect a substantial portion of your activity.

I would advise you, however, that you also consult the Federal Election Commission on this question, as this contemplated activity may raise issues under the Federal Election Campaign Act.

Very truly yours,

Dennis J. Duffin
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Director